

**MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL CONTINUUM OF CARE COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 17, 2005**

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

\*Lorenzo Aguirre, City of El Mirage  
Roberto Armijo, Community Information &  
Referral Services  
\* Maryann Beerling Thomas, New Arizona  
Family  
Allie Bones, DES/CPM  
\*Judy Bowden, Mesa United Way  
Brad Bridwell, US Vets  
Tom Canasi, City of Tempe, Co-Vice Chair  
Kendra Cea, APS  
\*Kelly Dalton, City of Goodyear  
Trinity Donovan, Valley of the Sun United  
Way  
\*Ken Einbinder, US HUD  
Steve Frate, City of Glendale, Councilmember  
Fred Karnas, Governor' Office, C Y & F  
Don Keuth, Phoenix Community Alliance, Co-  
Vice Chair  
\*Dan Lundberg, City of Surprise  
\*Marvin Martin, Berean Baptist Church  
Carrie Mascaro, Catholic Social Services  
Mike McQuaid, HSC  
Meggan Medina, Arizona Coalition to End  
Homelessness  
\*Guy Mikkelsen, Foundation for Senior Living  
Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach  
Ministries  
\* Crucita Nuñez-Ochoa, Chicanos Por La Causa  
\*Frank Scarpati, Community Bridges  
Laura Skotnicki, Save the Family  
Greg Stanton, Councilmember of Phoenix,  
Chair  
Brenda Robbins for Vicki Staples, AZ Dept. of  
Health Services  
Annette Stein, Maricopa County HS  
Jeff Taylor, Phoenix Rescue Mission  
Margaret Trujillo, Trial Court of Arizona  
\*Mike Whalen, Councilmember of Mesa  
\*Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County,  
Supervisor  
Elizabeth Morales for Ted Williams, AZ  
Behavioral Health Corporation

\*Kit Wood, Maricopa County Schools  
Margot Cordova for Diana Yazzie Devine,  
Native American Connections

OTHERS PRESENT

Susan Alling, Healthcare for the Homeless  
Nichole Ayoola, City of Mesa  
Kathryn Brown, AZ Dept. of Corrections  
Ray Burrell, Nova Safe Haven  
Gwyneth Cowger, Advocates for the  
Disabled  
Diane Dempsey, City of Gila Bend  
Robert Duvall, CIR  
Dawn Fiscus, City of Chandler  
Tresh Floyd, Healthcare for Homeless  
Deborah Forbes-Baker, Salvation Army  
John Gallagher, Area Agency on Aging  
DeDe Gaisthea, MAG  
Dick Geasland, Tumbleweed  
Riann Henkin, City of Phoenix  
Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter  
Services  
Theresa James, City of Tempe  
Tim Klont, AZ Dept. of Housing  
Don Logue, Symmetric Solutions  
John Paul Lopez, City of Tolleson  
Mattie McVey, AZ Dept. of Education  
Brandee Mead, MAG  
Marlena Pina, Salvation Army  
Bruce Raden, Congressman Shadegg's  
Office  
Courtney Penniman, Meta Another Chance  
Margaret Reiber, YWCA  
Amy St. Peter, MAG  
Erik Strunk, City of Glendale  
Vicki VanDreel, AZ Dept. of Housing  
Neal Young, City of Phoenix

*\*Those members neither present nor represented by  
proxy.*

*+Those members present by audio or video  
conference.*

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Greg Stanton called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and introductions ensued. Councilman Stanton congratulated all of those who worked on the Human Services Campus and thanked Brad Bridwell of U.S. Vets for his work on the Standdown.

2. Call to the Audience

Chairman Stanton asked for a call to the audience. Mark Holleran, speaking on behalf of CASS, wanted to be on record thanking Maricopa County for their support of the Human Services Campus. He especially thanked the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, David Smith and Linda Mushkatel for all their hard work.

3. Approval of the September 22, 2005 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Stanton asked for corrections or a motion to approve the September 22 meeting minutes. Co-Vice Chair Don Keuth made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Mike McQuaid seconded his motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Chairman Stanton announced that he would have to leave the meeting early due to a scheduling conflict and would therefore like to move agenda items 8 and 10 up to 4 and 5.

4. 2005 Annual Appreciation Luncheon Summary

Co-Vice Chair Tom Canasi thanked MAG staff for organizing and putting on the 2005 Annual Appreciation Luncheon. He made particular note of Chairman Stanton's homeless immersion experience and commended Steve Aragon for his involvement and presentation at the luncheon. Co-Vice Chair Canasi also thanked the Stardust Foundation for funding and commitment over the next five years. Co-Vice Chair Canasi asked for comments from the committee regarding the luncheon.

Jeff Taylor commented that we have very dynamic women in our own community who have overcome barriers and that we should have looked to our own community for someone to give a testimony. He suggested looking for someone from UMOM. Mr. Taylor made some comments about Steve Aragon and wondered what he is doing to overcome his homelessness. He suggested that he seemed content to be living the life he is living. Mr. Taylor would have liked to have had local homeless people share their story and said he was not happy with the choice of the keynote speaker.

Co-Vice Chair Canasi suggested putting together a planning committee for the luncheon next year and agreed that it would be nice to have a local perspective. A member of the audience also voiced their concerns over Mr. Aragon's situation. Riann Henkin thanked Mr. Taylor for his comments and pointed out that Mr. Aragon was chosen as Chairman Stanton's "buddy" because he was homeless and had experiences being homeless. She explained that they were aware of his past and picked him to keep Councilman Stanton safe throughout his experience. Ms. Henkin added that his reasons for choosing to be homeless are very typical of the homeless people on our streets now. It was noted that Mr. Aragon has quite a few resources available to him. Jeff Taylor responded that he was not questioning why Mr. Aragon or the keynote speaker were chosen but would prefer to have someone represent 80%

of the population and share a dynamic story in the future. Brad Bridwell reminded everyone that we should be concerned about confidentiality issues when discussing individuals.

Co-Vice Chair. Canasi congratulated the Star Award winners and thanked them for their hard work on homeless issues. He noted that we would learn from this event and use that knowledge in planning for next year's event. Co-Vice Chair. Canasi also personally congratulated Chairman Stanton for his homeless immersion experience.

5. Planning Subcommittee Report

Annette Stein explained that she was unable to attend the October 17<sup>th</sup> Planning Subcommittee meeting but thanked Theresa James for chairing the meeting for her.

Ms. Stein said that the subcommittee discussed the planning of Chairman Stanton's personal homeless immersion experience. The subcommittee also talked about Planning for the 2006 Street Count, which will take place on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2006. Vic Hudenko will be updating you on the street count under agenda item #6. She mentioned that Brande Mead presented the group with a draft of the homeless chapter for the Human Services plan and received feedback from the group. She will be presenting on that later on in the agenda today. The group discussed emergency planning and determined that the summer's heat emergency and Hurricane Katrina emergency need to be looked at as separate issues and that planning should be done to address both issues. Maricopa County is working with State and Federal representatives on emergency planning efforts and the concerns from the Planning Subcommittee will be carried forward to that group. She ended her report by thanking the Committee.

6. 2006 Homeless Street and Shelter Count

Vic Hudenko provided a report on the planning effort for the 2006 Homeless Street and shelter count. He mentioned that the three continua, Meggan Medina, and Allie Bones met to discuss the planning efforts. During that meeting the group made revisions to the count instrument. He announced that the Shelter and Street Count will be done on January 24<sup>th</sup>. He congratulated the continuum for a very successful street count in 2005, especially the city of Phoenix for their statistical sampling method. He mentioned that a letter will be going out to the City Managers informing them of the 2006 count and asking for their participation. Mr. Hudenko mentioned that efforts are being made on the 2006 count to improve the method of identifying and counting homeless families. Last year, Maricopa identified 33 or 34 families in the street count. He mentioned that efforts are being made to work with the Pappas School on locations of homeless kids. Possibly send out someone on the bus to count families. Mr. Hudenko also mentioned working with church networks to locate where families are sleeping. He said he would also talk to Co-Vice Chair Keuth about getting the business community involved in the street count. He also suggested involving the Letter Carriers. It was mentioned that the union meeting is on December 7<sup>th</sup> and the street count would be discussed.

The committee commented on the time of day of the count. Mr. Hudenko stated that there is not a prescribed time by HUD in which to conduct the count. The planning coordinators of the count set the time. He mentioned that they have to count around

CASS in the evening because they want to avoid duplication when people are bedded down in the shelter. Riann Henkin said that they struggle with determining the time every year because they don't want a duplicate count but that the counters have a hard time seeing people at night.

Mr. Hudenko said that the planning committee is really working to involve the homeless school liaisons in the count this year.

7. Homeless Chapter for Human Services Plan

Brande Mead presented a draft of the homeless chapter for the Human Services Plan for review and approval by the Committee. Ms. Mead stated that she would be meeting with Vic Hudenko to revise some of the local statistics. Brad Bridwell suggested adding more statistics from the National Coalition for Veterans in the veteran's section.

A motion was made by Co-Vice Chair Keuth to approve with the appropriate revisions from Mr. Hudenko and US Vets. Mr. Bridwell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

8. AZ Statewide HMIS Reporting System

Vicki Van Dreel from the Department of Housing presented on the AZ Statewide HMIS Reporting System. She explained that in late September the HMIS vendor for the AZ Department of Housing, Symmetric Solutions, presented the Committee with a plan for a statewide initiative to collect data regarding homeless persons served statewide and reported into all 3 current (and distinctly separate) "Homeless Management Information Systems" amongst the 3 CoC's within Arizona. She passed out a PowerPoint presentation from the previous meeting for information. She went on to explain that this initiative involves merging and consolidating "aggregate, de-identified data into numerical summary totals" from all 3 HMIS's into a central point database hosted by the AZ Department of Housing. This information will in turn generate reports within 25 pre-defined statewide reports for use by key state stakeholders (Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness / Governor's office, AZ Dept of Housing, and other state departments) in order to make appropriate policy and funding decisions concerning persons (and families) imminently homeless or homeless across Arizona. Because no detailed client data, including any data-identifying clients, will be provided by each HMIS to ADOH, the major security and confidentiality concerns have been alleviated.

The department's hope is to gain the final approval from MAG today, as the remaining CoC to provide consent, in order to commence the project on December 1st. ADOH will control the release and distribution of aggregate data or reports. Once the reports have been compiled and reviewed by Dr. Harris, ADOH Director, the results will be posted to the housing website; [www.housingaz.com](http://www.housingaz.com) and verbally presented by ADOH and Symmetric Solutions to each Continuum of Care committee thereafter. On behalf of the Arizona Department of Housing Ms. Van Dreel sincerely thanked the Committee for their time in considering and voting on this very important initiative matter.

It was mentioned that there was a study conducted between the Maricopa Continuum and the Rural Continuum to determine if clients are being duplicated among continua. The results showed a combined total 34,130 clients and a total duplicate client count of 122. Which means only .35% of the clients was duplicated between the two continuums. Ms. Van Dreel thanked CIR, Bob Duvall and Don Logue for their work on the study. She suggested presenting an award to Bob for the study.

A motion was made by Co-Vice Chair Keuth to approve the aggregate data. Roberto Armijo seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

9. 2006 Local HUD Application

Brande Mead mentioned that MAG had met with the Valley of the Sun United Way and with the Chairperson of the Ranking and Review Committee to begin planning for the 2006 local HUD application. Ms. Mead announced that the local application will be electronic by way of the VSUW EcFund system.

10. Guidelines Update

Amy St. Peter spoke about the Continuum of Care Regional Committee on Homelessness Guidelines. She explained that the Guidelines were not officially approved last year because of differing opinions on the advocacy section. The Guidelines have recently been revised and will be reviewed by the appropriate MAG Committees. She explained that when a person takes a stand on an issue on behalf of MAG, the position on the issue has to go through the appropriate MAG process. The MAG process can mean different things. The purpose and strength of the MAG process is to build regional support on issues. In the past, there has never been an issue stopped by the MAG process. The Continuum has been at MAG since 1999 and has been very successful.

Fred Karnas said he finds it troubling and thinks it is contrary to the original intent. He agreed that the Continuum does an amazing job in planning and bringing money to the County. Mr. Karnas said in his opinion the MAG process diminishes the Continuum's ability to end homelessness. He raised the question of whether the Continuum is in the right place.

Ms. Medina said she seconds Mr. Karnas comments. She said that advocacy is important and that the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness is a State organization and can advocate on behalf of the State but that Maricopa County needs to have a voice in policy issues. Ms. Medina said she sees the role of Continua in other parts of the State. She said she would encourage efforts of having another organization formed to host the Continuum.

Mike McQuaid from the Human Services Campus said he would like to have another model to look at and does not want to loose the ability to promote issues. Amy St.Peter responded that the MAG process is not meant to silence the Continuum, rather the process is meant to build support on issues. The process will enable the Continuum to work with officials and inform them on the issues of homelessness. She agreed that advocacy has a role in continuum.

Allie Bones mentioned that having the support of the continuum is important. She said that there is pressure on cities on behalf of the Continuum. It is difficult to have diffusion at the City level because the Continuum is at the County level. Having the ability to advocate to Cities is important.

Elizabeth Morales said she feels the Continuum could be left feeling helpless if it doesn't have the support needed. Co-Vice Chair Keuth responded and questioned if we can't sell issues to the MAG committees then whom do we sell them to? In his opinion it is better to take issues through the MAG system to get the support needed to be more effective. He added that organizations are not being stifled from advocating on issues, they just need to go through the MAG process when they are speaking on behalf of the Continuum.

Co-Vice Chair Canasi explained that he has been involved with the Continuum from the time it was first at MAG. Before MAG housed the Continuum, the Continuum was not well coordinated and was sporadic. Now it's one of the best in the Country. The problem with the guidelines is on the word advocating. He explained that it is not about advocating but about accomplishing and educating. That's why he has joined continuum. He said that this issue was a concern when Continuum was newly formed. However, this group has achieved things thought not possible. He mentioned some of the recent success: the Human Services Campus, the homeless court, the Regional Plan to End Homelessness, a comprehensive count of homeless in a short period of time. There has not been an issue with the MAG process regarding advocacy. Co-Vice Chair Canasi mentioned the power of the MAG Regional Council with all the MAG Mayors in one room to achieve and accomplish things. He explained that the Continuum has been operating like this since 1999 and that this is nothing new. He suggested that the Continuum continue on like it has been and doesn't want to see a crisis created now. He said that we need to support each other.

Chairman Stanton explained that this is not a voting item and it is only on the agenda for information and discussion. Ms. St. Peter said she appreciates the discussion on the issue. Laura Skotnicki asked about the timeframe of taking issues through the MAG process. Ms. St. Peter responded that time sensitive issues can be brought through the process very quickly.

#### 11. 2006 Meeting Schedule

Brande Mead presented a 2006 meeting schedule to the members. She explained that Continuum meetings can no longer take place the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every other month because of a conflict with meeting room space. However, she explained that meetings can happen on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every other month, the week after the Planning Subcommittee meeting. The Committee agreed unanimously with the 2006 meeting schedule as presented.

#### 12. Call to the Audience

Fred Karnas thanked Meggan Medina for her work at the AZ Coalition to End Homelessness and wished her well as she will be taking a position at the Department of Housing.

Riann Henkin mentioned the homeless court ribbon cutting at the Day Resource Center at 11:00 on November 21st. Ms. Medina asked about the dates of the winter overflow shelter. Ms. Henkin said the shelter is opening on Monday and scheduled to operate through Jan 20<sup>th</sup>. She explained that there might be a contingency plan if the weather becomes an issue.

Liz Morales said that HUD presented an award to the Casa De Paz program as the most valuable project for 2005.

Mike McQuaid thanked everyone involved in the Human Services Campus. He said that people could contact him for a tour of the facility.

13. Announcements

There were no announcements from the audience.

14. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Continuum of Care will be on Monday, January 23 at 2:00 pm in the Saguaro Room at the MAG offices.